

ONE-PIECE SOFT SPOUT VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR A NO-Spill DRINKING CUP

Abstract

A one-piece soft spout valve assembly (10) for attachment to a drinking cup (12) includes a diaphragm (11) having a body (17), a spout portion (20) and a valve portion (22) integrally formed in the body (17). The body (17) has an outward surface (30), an inward surface (32), and a peripheral edge (16). The peripheral edge (16) delineates the outward surface (30) from the inward surface (32). Furthermore, a groove (18) is circumferentially formed in the peripheral edge (16) for fixedly attaching to a drinking cup (12). The spout portion (22) and the valve portion (22) form a cavity (23) within the inward surface (32) of the body (17) and a drinking opening (21) within the spout portion (20) on the outward surface (30) of the body (17), whereby fluid may pass from the cavity (23) to the drinking opening (21) through the valve portion (22) when the valve portion (22) is forcibly actuated by the spout portion (20) in response to an externally applied force by an user.